

TITLE 92 - NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 23 - BASIC SKILLS COMPETENCY TESTING OF TEACHERS AND
 ADMINISTRATORS

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001 General Information

001.01 Statutory Authority. This chapter is adopted pursuant to the power and authority vested in the State Board of Education in Nebraska Revised Statutes (R.R.S) Sections 79-807, 79-808 and 79-809(3).

001.02 Scope, Application, and Delineations of this Chapter. This chapter provides procedures for the administration of a basic skills competency examination for individuals seeking an entry-level Nebraska teacher or administrator certificate after July 31, 1989.

001.03 Institutional Responsibility. Each standard institution of higher education is required to annually sponsor administration of examinations as described in this chapter and to notify those of its students who may be affected of the requirement for taking the examinations and of the available opportunity to take the examinations.

001.04 Related Chapters. Throughout this chapter reference is made to other Department of Education rules relating to teachers and administrators. For a more detailed explanation of the procedures for the issuance of certificates to teach, counsel, or supervise in Nebraska schools refer to 92 NAC 21 (Rule 21). Title 92 NAC 20 (Rule 20) covers the approval of teacher education programs in Nebraska. Copies of these rules are available from the Department of Education.

002 Definition of Terms

As used in this chapter, the terms listed below shall be defined as follows:

002.01 Basic Skills Competency shall mean either (a) proficiency in (i) the written use of the English language, (ii) reading, comprehending, and interpreting professional writing and other written materials, and (iii) working with fundamental mathematical computations as demonstrated by successful completion of an examination designated by the board and taken by teacher education students at a standard institution of higher education; or (b) successful employment experiences of three (3) or more consecutive years in an approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school while (i) holding or qualifying to

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hold a regular certificate issued by another state on the basis of completion of an approved teacher education program; or (ii) holding current credentials from a credentialing organization approved pursuant to 92 NAC 22 (Master Teacher Program) as referenced in 92 NAC 21 (Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools). Basic skills examinations shall be those which meet section (a) in this definition and are approved by the State Board of Education, pursuant to this chapter.

002.02 Board shall mean the Nebraska State Board of Education.

002.03 CMEE BST shall mean the Content Mastery Examinations for Educators Basic Skills Test published by National Computer Systems, which is no longer available.

002.04 Commissioner shall mean the Nebraska State Commissioner of Education.

002.05 Department shall mean the State Department of Education which is comprised of the Board and the Commissioner.

002.06 Entry level certificate shall mean the first regular certificate acquired in Nebraska by an applicant.

002.07 Governing body shall mean the school board of a public school district, a board elected or appointed to provide direction to a nonpublic school, or an individual or corporate owner of a nonpublic school.

002.08 Nebraska school system shall mean an institution organized to provide elementary or secondary instruction that is accredited or approved by the Department, educational service unit accredited by the Department, or a special education service agency approved by the Department pursuant to 92 NAC 51.

002.09 PPST shall mean the paper or computerized reading, writing, and mathematics portions of the Pre-Professional Skills Test published by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey or the CBT.

002.10 Regular certificate shall mean an initial, standard, or professional certificate, or a comparable and equivalent certificate.

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002.11 Satisfactory scores shall mean scaled scores as shown on an original score report from the Educational Testing Service as set forth in section 003.02, or a determination by the Commissioner under section 008, or a score submitted under the provisions of section 009.

002.12 Standard institution of higher education shall mean any college or university whose teacher education program is fully approved by the Board, or by a comparable agency in any other state or country.

003 General Provisions

003.01 Designation of Basic Skills Competency Examination. The basic skills competency examinations shall consist of the reading, mathematics, and writing portions of the Pre-Professional Skills Test published by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey, referred to in this chapter and related chapters as the PPST. Section 008 contains alternate provisions for the basic skills competency examination for deaf individuals and section 009 deals with competency determinations based on reciprocity.

003.02 Satisfactory Scores. Designation. Satisfactory scores on the PPST shall be the scaled scores as shown on an original score report from the Educational Testing Service consisting of the following:

003.02A One hundred seventy or above on the reading portion of the PPST; and

003.02B One hundred seventy-one or above on the mathematics portion of the PPST; and

003.02C One hundred seventy-two or above on the writing portion of the PPST; or

003.02D A composite score of 513 on all three portions of the PPST, with no single test score being more than one point below the score required in sections 003.02A, B, or C, and upon the recommendation of a standard institution of higher education.

003.03 Scores on the computerized version of the PPST are now the same as those for the paper/pencil version. Satisfactory scores on the CBT, which was a computerized version of the PPST and was discontinued in the Fall of 2001, are

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still valid and shall be the scaled scores as shown on an original score report from the Educational Testing Service consisting of the following:

003.03A Three hundred sixteen or above on the reading portion of the PPST; and

003.03B Three hundred sixteen or above on the mathematics portion of the PPST; and

003.03C Three hundred eighteen or above on the writing portion of the PPST.

003.04 Payment of Test Fees. All fees in connection with registration for the PPST shall be paid by the person who registers to take the tests.

003.05 Applications for Renewal and for Second Certificates. No portion of this chapter shall be construed as having any application to the renewal of a Nebraska teaching or administrative certificate or to the application for a second Nebraska teaching or administrative certificate.

003.06 Number of Times Tests May Be Taken. There shall be no limitation by the Department on the number of times an applicant may take the PPST in meeting the requirements of this chapter.

003.07 Score Reports. Only original PPST score reports sent from the Educational Testing Service or PPST score reports sent by a Nebraska standard institution of higher education and to which the applicant shall not have had access shall be accepted by the Department for the purpose of meeting the requirements of this chapter and 92 NAC 21.

004 Basic Skills Competency Examination Requirements for Applicants for Administrative or Teaching Certificates

Except as provided in section 008 and section 009, each applicant for an entry-level administrative or teaching certificate shall:

004.01 Take the PPST at a Nebraska location designated by the Department or at any other location where the PPST is given; and

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004.02 Receive satisfactory scores on the PPST as designated by sections 003.02 or 003.03; and

004.03 Require that his or her original score report be sent directly to the designated Nebraska standard institution of higher education or to the Department.

005 Basic Skills Competency Examination Requirements for Nebraska Standard Institutions of Higher Education

Each Nebraska standard institution of higher education shall:

005.01 Sponsor the administration of designated basic skills competency examination(s) at least annually, to any person who shall register, as required by 92 NAC 20; and

005.02 Require that all persons entering the teacher education program of such institution receive satisfactory scores on a designated basic skills competency examination prior to being admitted to such program pursuant to 92 NAC 20; and

005.03 Post notices stating the Nebraska basic skills competency examination requirement and the dates, times, and locations of the test administrations, as required by 92 NAC 20; and

005.04 Explain to each student who seeks enrollment in the teacher education program of such institution the Nebraska basic skills competency examination requirement and the consequences of failing to receive a satisfactory score, as required by 92 NAC 20;

005.04A Evidence of compliance with section 005.04 shall be a statement signed by each student in the teacher education program and maintained in the student file which is prepared by the institution and which states the limitations posed for the student who does not achieve satisfactory scores on the basic skills competency examination. The date of the student's signature thereon shall also be included on the statement, and

005.05 Forward the original PPST score report of each person who has had his or her score report sent directly to such institution as part of that person's application for certification to the Department at the request of such person.

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005.05A No person shall be required to satisfy the score reporting requirement more than once. Thus, if the institution determines that a score report for passing scores is on file in the Department, and the Department issues a statement to that effect, the institution shall not require the submission of a score report from that applicant, either for admission to the program or for an institutional recommendation for certification purpose.

006 Basic Skills Competency Examination Duties of the Department

The Department shall:

006.01 Provide to any person upon request current information on Nebraska dates and testing locations for the PPST.

007 Provisions for Hearing

007.01 When a person is denied any Nebraska teaching or administrative certificate for which he or she has applied because of the provisions of this chapter, he or she shall be entitled to request a review and hearing pursuant to 92 NAC 21.

008 Provisions for Deaf Individuals

008.01 Individuals whose primary language is sign language and for whom English is a second language shall be required to take the same basic skills competency examinations as other individuals. However, if they fail to obtain the minimum satisfactory scores as specified in sections 003.02 or 003.03, they may apply to the Commissioner for a review of their past education, employment, and standardized testing experience.

008.02 If, upon examination, the Commissioner determines that the applicant has provided evidence of the possession of basic skills competency equivalent to that designated in sections 003.02 or 003.03, the Commissioner shall issue a determination that the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory scores for purposes of this chapter and 92 NAC, Chapters 20 and 21.

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009 Reciprocity

009.01 An individual who has taught or administered successfully for three (3) consecutive years in any approved, accredited, or otherwise legally operated school in any other state or has been certificated by any other state following the successful completion of a basic skill competency examination required by such state, meets the basic skills competency requirement pursuant to this chapter or 92 NAC 21.